

Amendments to the Claims:

Applicant notes that Claims 11-25 were withdrawn in the previous amendment, filed on January 6, 2004, and so are further indicated as withdrawn herein. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Previously Amended) A mutant pro-neurotrophin for use in intracellular processing of a corresponding neurotrophin selected from the group consisting of NGF, NT-3 and BDNF having improved secretion efficiency as compared to a wild-type neurotrophin, wherein the wild-type pro-neurotrophin has an asparagine residue at a position 8 amino acids upstream from the site of cleavage for the mature neurotrophin, the mutant pro-neurotrophin comprising a polypeptide in which the wild-type asparagine residue is replaced by a basic residue.
2. (Previously Presented) The mutant pro-neurotrophin according to Claim 1, wherein the basic residue is serine.
3. (Previously Cancelled) The mutant pro-neurotrophin according to Claim 1, wherein the corresponding neurotrophin is selected from the group consisting of NGF, NT-3 and BDNF.
4. (Previously Presented) The mutant pro-neurotrophin according to Claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is a recombinant one, and the replacement of the wild-type asparagine is made by mutation of a polynucleotide encoding the wild-type pro-neurotrophin.
5. (Previously Amended) A mutant pro-neurotrophin for use in intracellular processing of the NT 4/5 neurotrophin having improved secretion efficiency as compared to wild-type NT 4/5 neurotrophin, wherein the wild-type pro-neurotrophin has an asparagine residue at a position 4 amino acids upstream from the site of cleavage for the mature neurotrophin, the mutant pro-neurotrophin comprising a polypeptide in which the wild-type asparagine residue is replaced by a basic residue.
6. (Previously Presented) The mutant pro-neurotrophin according to Claim 5, wherein the basic residue is serine.
7. (Previously Cancelled) The mutant pro-neurotrophin according to Claim 5, wherein the corresponding neurotrophin is NT-4/5.

8. (Previously Presented) The mutant pro-neurotrophin according to Claim 5, wherein the polypeptide is a recombinant one, and the replacement of the wild-type asparagine is made by mutation of a polynucleotide encoding the wild-type pro-neurotrophin.

9. (Currently Amended) A mutant pro-neurotrophin precursor polypeptide selected from the group of mutant pro-neurotrophin precursor polypeptides consisting of SEQ.ID.Nos. 2, 4, 6 and 8.

10. (Previously Presented) A mutant pro-neurotrophin comprising the precursor polypeptide of Claim 5 joined by a cleavage site to a corresponding mature neurotrophin.

11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Withdrawn)

16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Withdrawn)

19. (Withdrawn)

20. (Withdrawn)

21. (Withdrawn)

22. (Withdrawn)

23. (Withdrawn)

24. (Withdrawn)

25. (Withdrawn)